

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12443 171545Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
-----046626 180100Z /63

R 171449Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
SECSTATE WASHDC 0174
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN

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SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: THEFT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS

REF: FRANKFURT 3106

1. REFTEL CONTAINS STATEMENTS OF FACT WHICH DO NOT COINCIDE WITH INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY CID SPECIAL AGENT FRANK RICHARDS WHO CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION IN PARIS APRIL 6 AND 7 AND BRIEFED RSO KASTENS ON RESULTS.

2. PACKAGE PURPORTEDLY CONTAINING MONEY WAS NOT SENT BY RFC PARIS. A SHAPE CASHIER OR DISBURING OFFICER BROUGHT A QUANTITY OF FRENCH FRANCS TO RFC OFFICES WHERE HE PLACED THE MONEY IN A CARDBOARD BOX AND WRAPPED IT FOR MAILING. TWO FSL EMPLOYEES WHO WITNESSED THE PACKING DID NOT COUNT THE MONEY AND BOTH REPORTED THAT THE BOX THEY SAW CONTAINED BILLS ONLY AND NO COINS. THE CASHIER SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT A BOX PURPORTEDLY CONTAINING
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FRENCH FRANCS TO THE EMBASSY AND ATTEMPTED TO SEND IT BY REGISTERED APO BUT WAS REFUSED. HE THEN TOOK IT TO THE EMBASSY POUCH CLERK WHO AGREED TO SEND IT BY REGISTERED POUCH TO SHAPE VIA FRANKFURT. ALTHOUGH THE POUCH CLERK SIGNED A RECEIPT DENOTING THAT THE BOX CONTAINED 125,000 FRENCH FRANCS (NOT 124,800) HE DID NOT EXAMINE THE

CONTENTS AND WAS IN FACT COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF ITS CONTENTS. UNFORTUNATELY HE DID NOT STIPULATE THIS ON THE RECEIPT HE SIGNED AND MERELY ACCEPTED THE WORD OF THE CASHIER THAT THE CONTENTS WERE AS DESCRIBED. IT IS APPARENT THEREFORE THAT APART FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE CASHIER, NO EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SHOW THAT A BOX CONTAINING 125,000 OR 124,800 FRENCH FRANCS WAS ACTUALLY SENT BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH TO SHAPE.

3. SA RICHARDS SAID THAT WHEN THE REGISTERED PACKAGE WAS OPENED AT SHAPE IT BORE NO INDICATION OF HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY OPENED OR TAMPERED WITH ALTHOUGH THIS FINDING MAY HAVE BEEN OVERCOME BY SUBSEQUENT TESTS.
HARTMAN

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